C. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In order to better assist the Examiner with the prosecution of the case, the current pending claims have been included in their entirety for which reconsideration is requested.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for controlling distribution of device information to a plurality of users participating in a messaging session, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving device information for a particular device utilized by a particular user participating in a messaging session, wherein said device information comprises at least one from among a power level of said particular device, a signal strength available to said particular device, and a cost for said particular user at said particular device to participate in said messaging session;

filtering said device information according to authorization preferences; and

distributing said filtered device information to at least one other user participating in said messaging session, such that said at least one other user is enabled to monitor said particular device utilized by said particular user during said messaging session.

2. (Original) The method for controlling distribution of device information according to claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

receiving said device information at, and distributing said filtered device information from, a messaging server communicatively connected via a network to said users.

3. (Original) The method for controlling distribution of device information according to claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

receiving authorization preferences for said particular device from said particular user.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The method for controlling distribution of device information according to claim 1, said step of receiving device information for a particular device utilized by a particular user participating in a messaging system further comprising the step of:

receiving said device information only when said device information reaches a threshold indicating a potential disconnection by said particular device from said messaging session ~~at least one from among a power level, a signal strength, a cost for participating, a device type, and a location~~.

5. (Original) The method for controlling distribution of device information according to claim 1, said step of filtering said device information according to authorization preferences, further comprising the step of:

filtering said device information according to user selected output preferences for said at least one other user.

6. (Original) The method for controlling distribution of device information according to claim 1, said step of filtering said device information according to authorization preferences, further comprising the step of:

filtering said device information according to authorization preferences selected for said messaging session.

7. (Original) The method for controlling distribution of device information according to claim 1, said step of filtering said device information according to authorization preferences, further comprising the step of:

filtering said device information according to a bandwidth associated with said messaging session.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A system for controlling distribution of device information to a plurality of users participating in a messaging session, said system comprising:

a server system communicatively connected to a network;

said server system further comprising:

means for receiving device information for a particular device utilized by a particular user participating in a messaging session, wherein said device information comprises at least one from among a power level of said particular device, a signal strength available to said particular device, and a cost for said particular user at said particular device to participate in said messaging session;

means for filtering said device information according to authorization preferences; and

means for distributing said filtered device information to at least one other user participating in said messaging session, such that said at least one other user is enabled to monitor said particular device utilized by said particular user during said messaging session.

9. (Original) The system for controlling distribution of device information according to claim 8, wherein said server system is communicatively connected via a network to a plurality of devices utilized by a plurality of users.

10. (Original) The system for controlling distribution of device information according to claim 8, said server system further comprising:

means for receiving authorization preferences for said particular device from said particular user.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The system for controlling distribution of device information according to claim 8, said means for receiving device information for a particular device utilized by a particular user participating in a messaging system, further comprising:

means for receiving said device information only when said device information reaches a threshold indicating a potential disconnection by said particular device from said messaging session ~~at least one from among a power level, a signal strength, a cost for participating, a device type, and a location~~.

12. (Original) The system for controlling distribution of device information according to claim 8, said means for filtering said device information according to authorization preferences, further comprising:

means for filtering said device information according to user selected output preferences for said at least one other user.

13. (Original) The system for controlling distribution of device information according to claim 8, said means for filtering said device information according to authorization preferences, further comprising:

means for filtering said device information according to authorization preferences selected for said messaging session.

14. (Original) The system for controlling distribution of device information according to claim 8, said means for filtering said device information according to authorization preferences, further comprising:

means for filtering said device information according to a bandwidth associated with said messaging session.

15. **(Currently Amended)** A program for controlling distribution of device information to a plurality of users participating in a messaging session, residing on a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means, said program comprising:

means for receiving device information for a particular device utilized by a particular user participating in a messaging session, wherein said device information comprises at least one from among a power level of said particular device, a signal strength available to said particular device, and a cost for said particular user at said particular device to participate in said messaging session;

means for filtering said device information according to authorization preferences; and

means for distributing said filtered device information to at least one other user participating in said messaging session, such that said at least one other user is enabled to monitor said particular device utilized by said particular user during said messaging session.

16. (Original) The program for controlling distribution of device information according to claim 15, said program further comprising:

means for receiving authorization preferences for said particular device from said particular user.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The program for controlling distribution of device information according to claim 15, said program further comprising:

means for receiving said device information only when said device information reaches a threshold indicating a potential disconnection by said particular device from said messaging session ~~at least one from among a power level, a signal strength, a cost for participating, a device type, and a location~~.

18. (Original) The program for controlling distribution of device information according to claim 15, said program further comprising:

means for filtering said device information according to user selected output preferences for said at least one other user.

19. (Original) The program for controlling distribution of device information according to claim 15, said program further comprising:

means for filtering said device information according to authorization preferences selected for said messaging session.

20. (Original) The program for controlling distribution of device information according to claim 15, said program further comprising:

means for filtering said device information according to a bandwidth associated with said messaging session.

21. **(Currently Amended)** A method for participating in a messaging session, said method comprising the steps of:

determining device information for a particular device utilized by a particular user to participate in a messaging session, wherein said device information comprises at least one from among a power level of said particular device, a signal strength available to said particular device, and a cost for said particular user at said particular device to participate in said messaging session; and

transmitting said [current] device information for distribution to at least one other user participating in said messaging session, such that said device information for said particular device is communicated within said messaging session.

22. **(Currently Amended)** The method for participating in a messaging session according to claim 21, said step of transmitting said device information ~~determining device information for a particular device~~ further comprising the step of:

comparing said device information with a threshold indicating potential disconnection of said particular device from said messaging session; and

only transmitting said device information if said device information exceeds said threshold.

~~determining said device information comprising at least one from among a power level, a signal strength, a cost for participating, a device type, and a location.~~

23. (Original) The method for participating in a messaging session according to claim 21, said method further comprising the steps of:

filtering a selection of information from said device information according to user output preferences for said at least one other user; and

transmitting only said selection of information for distribution to said at least one other user.

24. **(Currently Amended)** A system for participating in a messaging session, said system comprising:

a client messaging system communicatively connected to a network;

said client messaging system further comprising:

means for determining device information for a particular device utilized by a particular user to participate in a messaging session, wherein said device information comprises at least one from among a power level of said particular device, a signal strength available to said particular device, and a cost for said particular user at said particular device to participate in said messaging session; and

means for transmitting said [current] device information for distribution to at least one other user participating in said messaging session, such that said device information for said particular device is communicated within said messaging session.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The system for participating in a messaging session according to claim 24, said means for transmitting said device information ~~determining device information for a particular device~~ further comprising:

means for comparing said device information with a threshold indicating potential disconnection of said particular device from said messaging session; and

means for only transmitting said device information if said device information exceeds said threshold.

~~means for determining said device information comprising at least one from among a power level, a signal strength, a cost for participating, a device type, and a location.~~

26. (Original) The system for participating in a messaging session according to claim 24, said client messaging system further comprising:

means for filtering a selection of information from said device information according to user output preferences for said at least one other user; and

means for transmitting only said selection of information for distribution to said at least one other user.

27. **(Currently Amended)** A program for participating in a messaging session, residing on a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means, said program comprising:

means for determining device information for a particular device utilized by a particular user to participate in a messaging session, wherein said device information comprises at least one from among a power level of said particular device, a signal strength available to said particular device, and a cost for said particular user at said particular device to participate in said messaging session; and

means for transmitting said [current] device information for distribution to at least one other user participating in said messaging session, such that said device information for said particular device is communicated within said messaging session.

28. **(Currently Amended)** The program for participating in a messaging session according to claim 27, said program further comprising:

means for comparing said device information with a threshold indicating potential disconnection of said particular device from said messaging session; and

means for only transmitting said device information if said device information exceeds said threshold.

~~means for determining said device information comprising at least one from among a power level, a signal strength, a cost for participating, a device type, and a location.~~

29. (Original) The program for participating in a messaging session according to claim 27, said program further comprising:

means for filtering a selection of information from said device information according to user output preferences for said at least one other user; and

means for transmitting only said selection of information for distribution to said at least one other user.

30. **(Currently Amended)** A method for monitoring devices utilized within a messaging session, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving device information for at least one other device utilized by at least one other user participating in a messaging session at a particular device utilized by a particular user participating in said messaging session, wherein said device information comprises at least one indicator of a potential disconnection from among a power level of said particular device, a signal strength available to said particular device, and a cost for said particular user at said particular device to participate in said messaging session;

comparing said device information with at least one performance threshold set by said particular user; and

responsive to said device information exceeding said performance threshold, outputting said device information through said particular device according to device output preferences, such that said particular device is enabled to monitor said device information for said at least one other device utilized in said messaging session.

31. (**Currently Amended**) The method for monitoring devices utilized within a messaging session according to claim 30, said step of receiving device information for at least one other device, further comprising the step of:

receiving said device information comprising ~~at least one from among a power level, a signal strength, a cost for participating,~~ a device type[,] and a location.

32. (Original) The method for monitoring devices utilized within a messaging session according to claim 30, said step of outputting said device information through said particular device according to device output preferences, further comprising the step of:

graphically displaying said device information through said particular device according to device graphical output preferences.

33. (Original) The method for monitoring devices utilized within a messaging session according to claim 30, said step of outputting said device information through said particular device according to device output preferences further comprising the step of:

audibly outputting said device information through said particular device according to device audible output preferences.

34. **(Currently Amended)** A system for monitoring devices utilized within a messaging session, said system comprising:

a client messaging system communicatively connected to a network;

said client messaging system further comprising:

means for receiving device information for at least one other device utilized by at least one other user participating in a messaging session at a particular device utilized by a particular user participating in said messaging session, wherein said device information comprises at least one indicator of a potential disconnection from among a power level of said particular device, a signal strength available to said particular device, and a cost for said particular user at said particular device to participate in said messaging session;

means for comparing said device information with at least one performance threshold set by said particular user; and

means, responsive to said device information exceeding said performance threshold, for outputting said device information through said particular device according to device output preferences, such that said particular device is enabled to monitor said device information for said at least one other device utilized in said messaging session.

35. **(Currently Amended)** The system for monitoring devices utilized within a messaging session according to claim 34, said means for receiving device information for at least one other device, further comprising:

means for receiving said device information comprising ~~at least one from among a power level, a signal strength, a cost for participating,~~ a device type[,] and a location.

36. (Original) The system for monitoring devices utilized within a messaging session according to claim 34, said means for outputting said device information through said particular device according to device output preferences, further comprising:

means for graphically displaying said device information through said particular device according to device graphical output preferences.

37. (Original) The system for monitoring devices utilized within a messaging session according to claim 34, said means for outputting said device information through said particular device according to device output preferences further comprising:

means for audibly outputting said device information through said particular device according to device audible output preferences.

38. **(Currently Amended)** A program, for monitoring devices utilized within a messaging session, residing on a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means, said program comprising:

means for receiving device information for at least one other device utilized by at least one other user participating in a messaging session at a particular device utilized by a particular user participating in said messaging session, wherein said device information comprises at least one indicator of a potential disconnection from among a power level of said particular device, a signal strength available to said particular device, and a cost for said particular user at said particular device to participate in said messaging session;

means for comparing said device information with at least one performance threshold set by said particular user; and

means, responsive to said device information exceeding said performance threshold, for outputting said device information through said particular device according to device output preferences, such that said particular device is enabled to monitor said device information for said at least one other device utilized in said messaging session.

39. **(Currently Amended)** The program for monitoring devices utilized within a messaging session according to claim 38, said program further comprising:

means for receiving said device information comprising ~~at least one from among a power level, a signal strength, a cost for participating,~~ a device type[,] and a location.

40. (Original) The program for monitoring devices utilized within a messaging session according to claim 38, said program further comprising:

means for graphically displaying said device information through said particular device according to device graphical output preferences.

41. (Original) The program for monitoring devices utilized within a messaging session according to claim 38, said program further comprising:

means for audibly outputting said device information through said particular device according to device audible output preferences.